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- We claim:
1. A process of imparting fire retardant and moisture resistant properties to a cellulosic material comprising applying and infusing a material consisting of an alkali metal silicate solution, applying energy to said material under sufficient conditions to thereby cause the alkali metal silicate to become water insoluble.
 2. The process of claim 1 wherein the solution application step is selected from the group consisting of soaking and pressure treating.
 3. The process of claim 1 wherein the alkali metal silicate is sodium silicate.
 4. The process of claim 1 wherein the cellulosic material is subjected to complete or partial drying following the application step.
 5. The process of claim 4 wherein the drying is selected from the group consisting of microwaves, lasers, and radiant heat.
 6. The process of claim 3 wherein the sodium silicate solution has a concentration of 0.04-400 g of sodium silicate per kilogram of water.
 7. The product produced by the process of claim 1.
 8. The product produced by the process of claim 4.
 9. The product of claim 1 wherein the product possesses the property of increased hardness and durability.
 10. The product of claim 1 where the product possesses the property of increased fire retardance.
 11. The product of claim 1 wherein the product possesses the property of improved resistance to chipping and peeling.

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